• • • REMARKS • • •

By the present Preliminary Amendment, the specification, claims and abstract have been revised to more clearly describe applicant's invention in accordance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Care has been taken so as to avoid the addition of new matter in the specification, claims and abstract.

Entry of the present Preliminary Amendment prior to the examination of the application is respectfully requested.

In the event applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, applicant hereby petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 02-0385, Baker & Daniels.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael S. Gzybowski
Reg. No. 32,816

BAKER & DANIELS
111 East Wayne Street
Suite 800
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802
(219) 460-1661

MSG/mln/184913

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Changes Made to Specification Paragraphs

The second full paragraph on page 1 has been amended as follows:

Conventional disposable diapers are provided in [its] their rear waist [region] regions with a pair of wings formed with a nonwoven fabric. In those diapers, the wings are formed with fastener sections serving to connect the front and rear waist regions to each other. The fastener sections are provided on inner surfaces thereof with adhesive zones or male members of so-called mechanical fasteners so that these adhesive zones or male members may be detachably fixed to the front waist region.

The first full paragraph on page 2 has been amended as follows:

[In view of the problems as have been described above, it] It is an object of this invention to [improve the known] design disposable diapers [so that] in which the male members may be easily anchored on the target zone or zones even if the fastener sections comprise [the] nonwoven fabric and the male members of the mechanical fasteners are fixed to the nonwoven fabric.

The first full paragraph on page 3 has been amended as follows:

[The improvement according] According to this invention [is in that] the wings are formed with a nonwoven fabric made of thermoplastic synthetic fibers, the nonwoven fabric partially extending outward from circumferentially outer side regions of the wings to form the fastener sections which are, in turn, provided on inner surfaces thereof with the male members of the mechanical fasteners, and the wings are formed on the inner surfaces thereof with a plurality of fine fusion spots at which the fibers are fused together so that the number of the fine fusion spots per unit area of the wings nonwoven fabric is larger in the outer side regions of the

wings than inner regions of the wings extending inward from the outer side regions.

The first full paragraph on page 10 has been amended as follows:

It is possible without departing from the scope of this invention to configure the outer side regions 41 so that these regions 41 may extend substantially the same as the fastener section 21. However, the outer side regions 41 extending from the fastener sections 21 to parts of the rear wings 12 avoid an anxiety that the fasteners 21 might be easily torn along proximal ends of the respective fastener sections 21 defining boundary lines between the fastener sections 21 and respective rear wings 12. Shape of the individual fusion spots 20 is not limited to circular shape and may be replaced by [the] other appropriate [shape] shapes.

The first full paragraph on page 11 has been amended as follows:

In the disposable diaper according to this invention, the fastener sections are formed by attaching the male members of the mechanical fasteners to the nonwoven fabric of the rear wings. However, a user can quickly anchor the male members on the female members as the counterparts of the male members even if the male members are of a relatively small size. This is because the fastener sections and the vicinity thereof are formed with the fusion spots distributed at a sufficiently high density to improve the stiffness thereof.

Changes Made to Claims

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1.(Amended) A disposable diaper comprising:

a liquid-pervious [topsheet,] topsheet;

a liquid-impervious backsheet; [and]

a liquid-absorbent core disposed between [these two sheets] said liquid-pervious topsheet and said liquid-impervious backsheet; [so as to configure]

a front waist [region,] region;

a rear waist region; [and]

a crotch region extending between [these two waist regions] said front waist region and said rear waist region in a longitudinal direction of the diaper;[diaper, said rear waist region being formed on transversely opposite side portions thereof with]

wings formed on transversely opposite side portions of said rear waist region and extending outward in a circumferential direction intersecting said longitudinal direction; and [said wings being formed with]

fastener sections formed on said wings and extending outward in said circumferential direction and provided on inner surfaces thereof with male mechanical fastener members, [as components of mechanical fasteners, wherein:]

said wings [are formed with] comprising a nonwoven fabric made of thermoplastic synthetic fibers, said nonwoven fabric partially extending outward from circumferentially outer side regions of said wings to form said fastener sections which are, in turn, provided on inner surfaces thereof with said male mechanical fastener members, [of the mechanical fasteners; and]

said wings [are] being formed on the inner surfaces thereof with a plurality of fine fusion spots at which said fibers are fused together, said plurality of fine fusion spots being arranged so that [the] there is a greater number of said fine fusion spots per unit area [of said wings nonwoven fabric is larger] in said outer side regions of said wings than in inner regions of said wings [extending] that extend inward from said outer side regions.

Claim 2 has been amended as follows:

2. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said [outer side regions of said] nonwoven fabric [are more stiff] is stiffer in said outer side regions of said wings than in said inner side [regions.] regions of said wings.

Claim 3 has been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) The diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said male mechanical fastener members are peelably engaged with said inner side [regions.] regions of said wings.

Changes Made to Abstract

A disposable diaper [has] having a pair of wings[, and the wings] that are formed [with] from a nonwoven fabric [and the nonwoven fabric] that partially extends outward in a circumferential direction to form fastener sections which are, in turn, provided on its inner surfaces with male members of mechanical fasteners. The nonwoven fabric is formed on the inner surface thereof with a plurality of fine fusion spots so that the number of the fine fusion spots per unit area of the inner surfaces is larger in the fastener sections and first regions than in second regions extending inside the first regions.